

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

BARTRAM'S SHADBUSH

(Amelanchier bartramiana ((Tausch) Roemer)

DESCRIPTION

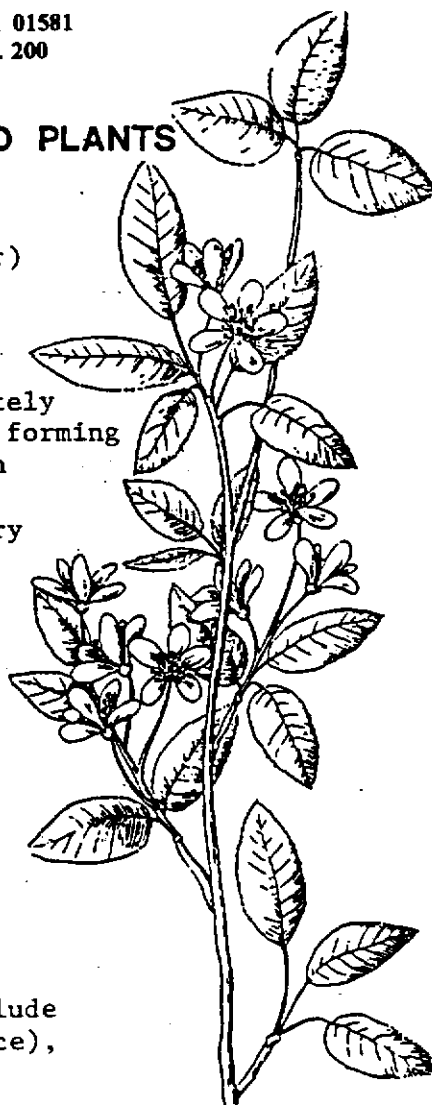
Bartram's Shadbush is a slender few-stemmed shrub approximately 1½ - 8 ft. (.5-2.5 m.) tall, occurring singly or sometimes forming open clumps. The branchlets are smooth and purplish-gray in color. The dull green leaves are serrate, smooth, oblong elliptic and 1-2 inches (3-5 cm.) long. Flowers are solitary or 2-3, petals are white and ¼ - ½ inch (6 - 10 mm.) long. The edible fruit is a dark purple color.

SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Shadbushes can be difficult to identify and 2-3 species are often found in the same vicinity. Bartram's Shadbush can be easily distinguished by its few flowers per cluster (only 1-3) and the leaf shape that is tapered to each end, not cordate nor rounded-elliptic at the base. Leaf tips are more tapered than in our other Shadbushes.

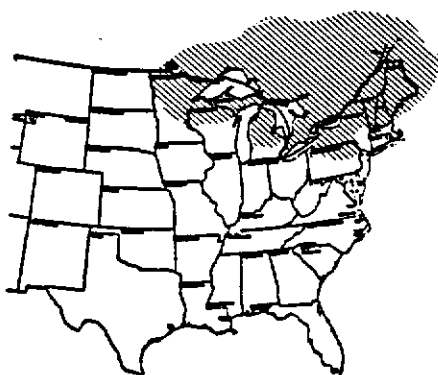
HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

This shrub thrives in mountain thickets, near sphagnum bogs and on steep wooded rocky slopes. Co-occurring species include Betula alleghaniensis (Yellow birch), Picea rubra (Red Spruce), Sorbus americana and S. decora (Mountain-Ashes), and Nemopanthus mucronata (Mountain-holly).

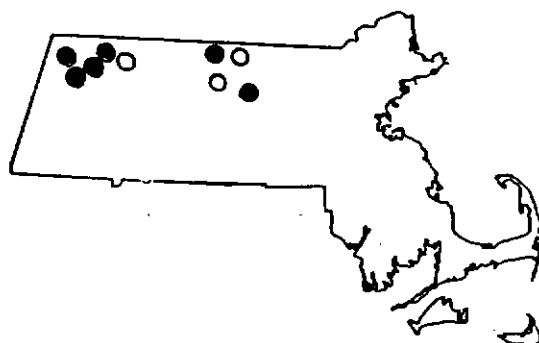


Glenn, R.A. The New Britton and Brown
Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern U.S.
and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden,
1952.

(continued overleaf)



Distribution of Bartram's Shadbush



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

BARTRAM'S SHADBUSH (continued)

RANGE

Bartram's Shadbush ranges from Labrador, west to the Thunder Bay District, Ontario, south to Massachusetts, northern Pennsylvania, northern Michigan and northern Minnesota.

POPULATION STATUS

This species is considered "Threatened" in Massachusetts. Currently (1978 to present) seven occurrences have been verified; five other historical occurrences were recorded prior to that time. Most of the populations in Massachusetts are small and consist of scattered plants. The fact that Bartram's Shadbush is near the southern limit of its range in Massachusetts is a contributing factor to its rarity in the state. It has also been impacted by clearing of mountain summits.